



Election 2018  
School Board Candidate Survey  
Marana Unified

**Mark A. Neish**  
Marana Unified School District

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Which of the following art forms do you have personal experience (training and/or participation) in?  
(Check all that apply)

	Instrumental Music
	Vocal Music
	Visual Arts
	Dance
✓	Theatre
	Photography
	Creative Writing
	Film

In which arts activities have your children participated in school? (Check all that apply)



Music



Theatre

Visual Arts



Dance

I have no children.

Other (please specify)

Until 2017, the Arizona Administrative Code required the teaching of music and visual arts in Arizona K-8 schools. Current policy now requires schools offer two of five artistic disciplines (music, theatre, dance, visual arts and media arts). According to the 2018 Arizona Arts Data Project (based on 2015-16 enrollment), under the previous requirement, only 65 percent of Arizona K-8 students had access to music and arts.

As a school board member, would you support a district policy that requires that all K-8 students in your district have access to at least two of the five disciplines, per the new state administrative code?

Yes

No Reasoning Provided

As member of the school board, will you support district-level policies that insure your district schools properly report all data to the Arizona Department of Education about arts education course offerings and student enrollment so that equity and access to arts education can be evaluated and parents are aware of whether their children are receiving a quality arts education?

Yes

No Reasoning Provided

Would you support a comprehensive district-wide assessment of the degree to which arts education is being offered in your schools, including enrollment, instructional minutes, teacher qualifications, resources and materials, and adequacy of student assessments?

Yes

No Reasoning Provided

If elected, will you promote a policy of including arts education stakeholders in the annual required district needs assessment with arts educators appropriately represented on planning teams, etc.?

Yes

No Reasoning Provided

The state A-F Report card for K-8 schools does not currently give a school ANY credit for student achievement in arts education because students often are not evaluated by grades, or “satisfactory” or “unsatisfactory” measurements. If valid assessments existed, the State Board of Education likely would give credit for student achievement in arts, thereby creating a greater incentive for quality arts education.

As a member of the school board will you promote the adoption of a process to develop valid student assessments of achievement in arts education, based on the Arizona Arts Education Standards?

Yes

No Reasoning Provided

Currently, the 9-12 A-F school report card only gives credit for student achievement in AP Arts Classes (as part of the College and Career Ready point formula). However, Arizona’s arts standards are sequential with increasing conceptual learning and proficiency to either the junior or senior level. Would you advocate the expansion of the College and Career Ready point formula to include credit for successful completion of study in an arts discipline (e.g., visual arts, theatre, music) to the senior level as is done for other academic and CTE courses?

Yes

No Reasoning Provided

Arts Education advocates are working to develop a Fine Arts Seal -- similar to the Civics and Biliteracy Seals-- to be affixed to the diplomas and noted in transcripts of graduating students with advanced achievement in high school Fine Arts.

If the state adopts the Fine Arts Seal, will you support the adoption of the seal in your school district?

Yes

No Reasoning Provided

Please take this opportunity to provide any additional comments about your views on arts education in our K-12 schools, or any other education issue you consider a priority as you seek a position on your district school board.

Everyone, with a pragmatic view of the situation pursuant to education in AZ, knows the prime issue is the lack of appropriate state funding. This impacts all areas of the school district's operation, particularly in the area of personnel and the ability to attract and retain quality educators and support staff.

In regard to the arts in education, I view them and all co-curricular activities and athletics as vitally important. They are the linchpin that will keep many students engaged in school and prevent them from dropping out. Having been a building level administrator for 15 years, I can think of several examples where, if not for a school co-curricular program, a student would have been lost and may very well have dropped out of school, or maybe even worse. These programs are vital to our schools and to the success of the students.